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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

Military Information from the Quartering Area of the 12th Gds Tank Div

TOPIC

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EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	638951	25X1
DATE OF CONFE			25X1
DATE OBTAINED	DATE PREPARED	26 May 1954	25X1
REFERENCES			25X1
PAGES	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)		25X1
REMARKS	This is UNEVALUATED		

- Between 1 and 17 April 1954, the Friedrich Franz Kaserne [redacted], Neuruppin, was occupied to capacity by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Heavy weapons observed included up to 8 model-35x122-mm field howitzers, 10 M-13 rocket launchers and 4 x 85-mm AA guns. On 5 April, 4 trucks towing 4 x 85-mm AA guns and 8 trucks towing 8 x 122-mm field howitzers left the installation. About 10 M-13 rocket launchers and 4 trucks towing 85-mm AA guns entered the installation on 7 and 11 April respectively. Motor vehicles and left the installation.
- Between 1 and 17 April, the See Kaserne [redacted], Neuruppin, was occupied to capacity by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. On 5 and 6 April, about 16 trucks towing 120-mm mortars and occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, left the installation toward Kraenzlin. T-34 tanks [redacted] JS tank [redacted] and radio truck [redacted] also left the installation.
- On 29 April, about 30 SU-100 guns were seen in, and at least 1,000 ammunition boxes in front of, the sheds of Unit Kovalenko in Fridericus Kaserne [redacted]. Source had the impression that elements of the troops stationed in the installation prepared for departure.
- [redacted] the installation was occupied to capacity prior to 4 May. At that time, the units conducted small-scale exercises at the Storbeck-Gentzrode post training area. It was rumored among the troops that additional dependents of officers and EM were to be transferred to Germany and that the troops were to spend their leave in Germany instead of going to the USSR.
- On 20 and 21 April, each one unit of 120 to 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and gasmasks and carrying small arms was seen at a long practice march toward Bechlin-Pabergotz, with the returning troops proceeding in double time from a point about 5 km from Neuruppin to the perimeter of the town. Officers and EM, who wore gasmasks during the whole march, appeared

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[redacted] to be exhausted when they took them off. ¹

6. On 24 April, 8 pontoons were seen [at Molchow Lake, just north of Neumuehler lock. Four other pontoons were observed south of the lock. Ten M1 and 1 officer were [observed] with the pontoons. [redacted] the officers belonging to a unit in Genthzrode. Numerous tank ditches, about 5 to 10 meters wide and 3 meters deep were seen west of Molchow Lake, about 300 meters north of the lock.²] 25X1
7. Between 14 and 27 April, the barracks installation in Drogen [redacted] near Fuerstenberg was occupied to capacity. On 26 April, intensive activity was observed in the installation. At 2 p.m., 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and armed with light infantry weapons entered the installation from the Carlshorst firing range. Entrenching work at the field fortifications in the barracks area had discontinued. Supply vehicles [redacted]

[redacted] entered the installation. ³ 25X1

1. [redacted] Comment. The information does not indicate any changes in the occupation of the Neuruppin post prior to early May. [redacted] according to available information, Unit Lieutenant Colonel Kovalenko (fmu) is identical with the 66th Gds Tank Regt of the 12th Gds Tank Div. The SU-100 guns reported by source are believed to have been JS tanks which, however, should number only 21, or T-34/35 tanks. Elements of the tank units from Fredericus Kaserne probably were to conduct firing practices at the post training field or the Neu-Glienke firing ranges in late April.

2. [redacted] Comment. The area at the Neumuehler lock was also used as engineer training site during preceding years. It is rather safely believed that elements of the 205th Engr Bn of the 12th Gds Tank Div from Genthzrode conducted water exercises in this area in late April.

3. [redacted] Comment. The 34th Gds Ptz Rifle Regt of the 12th Gds Tank Div can be carried in its quarters prior to late April. [redacted] The motor vehicles [redacted] belong to the 31st AAA Div which provides AAA protection for the Hq Second Gds Mech Army in Fuerstenberg and vehicles of which were repeatedly observed en route to the installation. However, this traffic cannot be accounted for.

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